

[4 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(xiii) Performance of the staff connected with train operation is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for attending crash courses.

(xiv) Periodical safety drives are launched to inculcate, safety consciousness among the staff.

Increasing the number of coaches

1527. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the conventional type of coaches are being manufactured in excess of the target since 1991;

(b) if so, their excess number till date;

(c) what is the second class passenger earning, including sleeper class, at present; and

(d) whether such earnings are more than 50 per cent of the entire earnings of Railways; and if so, the reasons for not increasing the coaches of the second class passenger sleeper class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In Budget Estimate 2000-2001, the second class passenger earnings, including sleeper class have been Estimated at Rs. 8137.42 crores.

(d) The earnings are not more than 50% of the entire earnings of Railways. However, the induction of second class passenger sleeper coaches is being done as per the requirements of the Railway.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Kayamkulam rail line

1528. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the fund allotted for doubling the Ernakulam-Kayamkulam rail line; and

(b) by when the work is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The work is not yet sanctioned.

(b) Does not arise.

Indo-Bangladesh goods train services

1529. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agreement signed with Bangladesh to resume goods train service; and

(b) by when the service would be revived to boost trade and commerce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following four Railway links were operational between India and Bangladesh.

- Gede (India)-Darsana (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Singhabad (India)-Rohanpur (Bangladesh)—Broad Gauge
- Radhikapur (India)-Birol (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge
- Mahisasan (India)-Shahbazpur (Bangladesh)—Meter Gauge.

A fifth Direct Railway link between Petrapole (India)-Benapole (Bangladesh)-Broad Gauge for goods train services has also become operational recently for which Working Agreement has been signed on 4.7.2000 between Government of India through Ministry of Railways and Government of the People Republic of Bangladesh through Bangladesh Railways.

(b) Commercial notification has been issued by Railways for operationalising this route. Freight trains will run between Petrapole-Benapole as and when indents are received.

Rail line in Surendranagar Distt, in Gujarat

1530. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a rail line in Surendranagar District in Gujarat;